

### Business Notices.

We wish this most noble and wise charity an earnest God-speed. We trust, too, that its success may be so prompt and vigorous that it can afford to extend its limits of supervision so as to include not only the charitable, but penal institutions of the State. The jails, and, in some respects, the penitentiaries of New-York are still a disgrace to Christianity and civilization, notwithstanding the earnest labors among them for years of the Prison Association. They need precisely that which education and religion, as it is now proposed to apply them, can give. The objects of the penitentiaries at Auburn and Sing Sing is avowedly to make the institutions self-supporting, and not the reform of the convicts, most of whom (especially the younger ones) as was testified on oath by keepers, physicians and chaplains, go out worse than they come in. The country jails, with but very few exceptions, are badly built, unventilated, resembling kennels for beasts, in fact, more than the reformatory homes which society offers to her erring children. Men and women in most of them are allowed to herd together indiscriminately; homeless children, and the innocent awaiting trial, are shut up with the irreclaimably vicious in absolute idleness in dark, filthy cells, permeated with the foulest odors, and to which the air only penetrates through a grating in the door. "Here," says the Superintendent, Dr. Wines, "with no work to do, or books to read, nothing to occupy body or mind but an endless round of hearsal of deeds of crime, they form a huge, seething mass of corruption and contamination; a gangrene on the body of society, a mighty motive power always propelling the wretched man toward the gulf of irretrievable ruin." We trust that the Association may not find that the State Charities deserve any share in this condemnation, but it is certain that they have begun their work none too soon. We bespeak the cordial cooperation of every good man and woman for them in it.